

Helen

She has been an inspiration to me since I have known her. She is one of the few people that can see clearly for miles ahead and still see the minute details within.

— Bob Faust

Helen Margaret Faust Blackledge loved family and friends and laughter and stories and crossword puzzles and hummers and black dogs and huevos rancheros and verbena and cacti and sunshine and doo-wop and loving and smiling and *CSI* and *Law & Order* and Hershey's milk chocolate with almonds. Helen was born 1 Nov 1943 in Silver City, NM to Jerry Willard Faust II and Helen Elizabeth (Brand) Faust. She died peacefully at her home in Albuquerque at 6 am on Sunday, 5 March, 2006. Her body was cremated and her remains were interred on 16 March 2006 in Santa Fe National Cemetery, NM.

I first met Helen when I went to her business, Comptonics, a few months after I arrived in Albuquerque. Comptronics was a computer dating service – a brand new idea in 1965. It was essentially an IBM card sorting program, choosing possible persons of interest from a long detailed questionnaire you completed. I asked Helen out.

Helen graduated in Jun 1961 from Cobre High School, Bayard, NM. She attended numerous schools as her stepfather, Art Muller, was transferred to various aerospace engineering jobs. She attended Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, CA, in 1960, and remembers Frank Zappa refusing to stand for the national anthem. During the year she attended the University of New Mexico, she roomed with Penny Marshall of Brooklyn, later of Hollywood fame (e.g., as Laverne in TV's *Laverne & Shirley*, and as director of "*A League of Their Own*").

As part of my "research", I have purchased a (used) copy of Penny Marshall's poorly selling autobiography: *My Mother Was Nuts* (2012).

The reason is that Helen often told me about rooming with Penny Marshall at UNM, and the fun of having her talk about anything in her Brooklyn accent, and taking her out to the country in NM where she saw her first cow not in the Brooklyn zoo.

In the book, Penny doesn't use many actual names that cannot be instantly recognized when dropped.

from page 51:

Although it may not have seemed as though I wasn't trying very hard to reach the end of the school year before I flunked out, I never doubted that I would go to college. ... I also had to figure out where I could go with a C average.

... Finally, my father brought home a pamphlet from the University of New Mexico. As I read the description, I realized this school was different from the others. They accepted anyone from out of state, which upped my chances of getting in.

{and here is the only part I've found that could be about Helen:}
from page 54:

Coming from New York, I thought that I would be the fast, big city girl among the freshmen in my dorm. Then I walked into my room and found my new roommate sitting on her bed, smoking a Hav-a-Tampa cigar. She looked at my cigarettes as if to say she had outgrown those in fifth grade.

I asked Helen's brother Jerry about this: BILE, did Helen try out the cigars for awhile? I know she idolized you ... did you go off to A&M already smoking cigars?

Helen formed and operated three businesses in Albuquerque: Anne-tiques/PROMOTIONS (Collectibles) on 636 San Mateo SE (with Anne Lindsey, 1986-1988); the Auction Company (with Richard Brewington, 1987-1989); and the Antique Manor (with Jodie England and Sue Craven at the original location, 2222 Eubank, 1988-1993; then managed two other locations until she retired the Manor in December 2001. Her specialties were antique marbles and costume jewelry, and she was known as the "Marble Lady of Albuquerque" until she sold her collection of over 70,000 antique (hand and machine-made) marbles to her business associate, friend, and soul mate, Jerry Colman.